

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

February, 2011



I remember one summer many years ago, Cheryl and I were on vacation with my extended family, and we were looking for a place to attend worship. We drove by what looked like a cute little mountain Church on Saturday evening and decided since it was close to where we were staying and it was a mainline denomination, we would attend that church. We got up early,

dressed, had our breakfast and headed for what we hoped would be a wonderful time of worship but... When we got to the Church we found the parking lot empty. We looked around for a sign, any kind of sign that might tell us what time church started, but we found nothing. We waited and walked around. We even tried the different doors but no matter what we tried, we were not able to worship at that church on that Sunday. Unfortunately, that was not a “unique” experience for us. We have vacationed many times in many different places and have always looked for a place to worship on Sunday. But too often it feels like those churches are only for people “on the inside”

Do you know the meaning of the phrase “on the inside?” In this case it means if you are not an insider you will not know the secrets of the church. And because you don’t know the “secrets” you also won’t know where to park, what door to use to enter or exit, where to sit, what time the services start, when to stand, when to sit, or even if it is OK to sit when everyone else is standing.

Most churches have insider secrets and we have them here at Centenary, it’s just that to us, the secrets aren’t secret. For example, we know that the door where the pastor stands to greet people, the one that faces McHenry, is the main door not the big doors that face the patio area. We know where the bathrooms are located, and where the other bathrooms are located if those doors are locked.

We also know what it feels like to not know the secrets. And none of us wants visitors to Centenary to ever feel like we are the insiders and they are not welcome here.

So how do we make Centenary comfortable and welcoming for visitors? I think the first thing we need to do is to offer our potential visitors a non-threatening chance to see us and get to know us. I think we need to give them a chance to come on campus, preferably for a safe and comfortable event, and

experience the kindness, the laughter, and the love of the Centenary Church Family.

And to accomplish this, we have planned a lot of events for 2011. We are calling these events Share Jesus Moments. The purpose of these events is to give us the opportunity to invite our family, friends and neighbors to come to Centenary and check us out. My prayer is people will discover that we are a lot of fun and this a good place to be.

To that end, on Saturday, January 29th we are hosting the Rock’n Egg Rolls event. I think that will be a lot of fun but let’s be honest, if we really wanted egg rolls we could just buy them. This event is about much more than just learning how to make egg rolls. This event is also about inviting people to come onto the Church grounds and, hopefully, discover that this is a good place to be.

We have many other events of this nature coming up. In February we are going to have a movie night. I’m still trying to talk them into showing an Abbott and Costell movie. I have to keep on reminding myself it’s not about the movie, it’s about the opportunity to introduce people to Centenary. In March, we are hoping to host Beat Feast II. In April we will hunt for Easter eggs at the Easter Eggstravaganza and the list goes on.

But these times aren’t even about the event themselves. These times are opportunities for us to step outside of our comfort zone and “Share Jesus” with other people by simply extending an invitation.

I’m excited about these events. I hope you will be excited too.

Shalom,



Pastor Bob

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## Share Jesus 2011

**Centenary Men’s Ministry**

“Band of Brothers”

**March 5, 2011**

**6 pm – 8 pm**

*Save the Date!*

*Centenary Women's Conference 2011*

*May 13—14*

*Heartfelt*

*The Truth Within*

*Cheryl Collins*

*Guest Speaker*

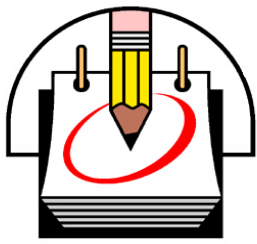
***DO YOU HAVE A GREEN THUMB?  
A WILLING HEART TO HELP BEAUTIFY CENTENARY?***

**Centenary is in need of volunteers to help us keep our garden areas growing, maintained and thriving.**

**We need several persons with a love for plants and flowers, and a willingness to get their hands dirty. Have an area in mind you would like to help beautify? Let us know!**

**If you are interested in helping us with this ministry opportunity, please contact the church office at 527-5441**





**SUNDAY**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - RM. 1 7:00 A.M.  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.  
ADULT SUNDAY CLASS - RM. 15/16 9:00 A.M.  
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.  
CAMBODIAN WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.  
JR. & SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL RM. 4/5 10:30 A.M.

**MONDAY**

BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY - RM. 6 6:00 P.M.

**TUESDAY**

MOM2MOM RM. 6 9:30 A.M.  
THRIFT SHOP 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.  
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP - SANCTUARY 6:55 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - PERKO'S MCHENRY AVE. 6:00 A.M.  
SPIRIT SALON WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/FELLOWSHIP 9:00 A.M.  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY/FELLOWSHIP  
DINNER - 5:30 P.M./CLASSES - 6:30 P.M.  
JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP 6:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY**

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - RM. 15/16 9:00 A.M.  
CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL - RM. 2/3 7:00 P.M.

**SATURDAY**

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 P.M.



2/1	TAMMY TROUT	2/12	CARLENE DUAMARELL
2/1	HAROLD WHALEY	2/12	PETE DUENAS
2/2	SALLY TAYLOR	2/12	AIMEE HUTTON
2/2	PHYLLIS RUBY	2/14	SUZANNE LOVE
2/2	MORN LOEUTH	2/14	DAVID CROCKER
2/3	BRYCE DAVIES	2/14	GUYLA BURHANS
2/3	BRAD RODMAN	2/14	JIM PERRY
2/5	SUSAN LIGHTHALL	2/14	STEVE NEFF
2/5	DAVID DEMERS	2/15	DEVON PAGE
2/5	NICOLE BURTIS	2/15	MELANIE HILDEBRANDT
2/5	SHAWNDA BURTIS	2/15	TIM HUBBARD
2/5	GLENN JAMISON	2/15	TOM GINGERICH
2/6	GERTRUDE COLEGROVE	2/16	Aidy HAYS
2/6	MARLA NAWROCKI	2/16	TOM SHAEFER
2/6	ANN ROBBINS	2/17	JENICA SEABOURN
2/6	LOU RHODES	2/17	JOSH HELM
2/7	ED WENDEL	2/17	LIN HERRON
2/7	JAY GALAS	2/17	CLARA CONSTABLE
2/7	BETTY HEVRIN	2/17	DARIN CHHUOY
2/8	RANDALL GABEREL	2/18	WINONA KRIESE
2/8	KARI SWANSON	2/18	KURTIS NELSON
2/8	MARYANN RILEY	2/18	MARGARET OLSON
2/10	RICHARD ANDERSEN	2/18	PAM VLACH
2/10	RATHA BUN	2/20	HARLON SMITH
2/11	MELISSA SPARKS	2/20	FRANK BAUGHN
2/11	HELEN MONROE	2/21	SOKDALY CHHUOY
2/12	AARON STRUCK	2/21	ELOUSIE HANSON
2/12	BRUCE VALENTINE	2/21	DOTTIE STARR
		2/21	SIMONIE WEBSTER
		2/21	MISTY WHETZLER
		2/22	MITCHELL COURT
		2/25	JOHN A. ASHLEY
		2/25	SHIRLEY MILLER
		2/26	CHRIS WITKOWSKI
		2/26	LINDA WATSON
		2/26	MIKE HELLMAN
		2/27	CHARLENE GARCIA
		2/28	MITCH LUCAS



- February 10     *SPRC Meeting*
- February 11-13     *All Comers Retreat/RCP*
- February 7     *Board of Trustees Meeting*
- February 15     *Children's Ministry Team Meeting*
- February 17     *Missions Team Meeting*
- February 17     *Preschool Advisory Board Meeting*
- February 21     *Presidents' Day/Church Office Closed*
- February 22     *Finance Committee Meeting*
- February 28     *Ad Council Meeting*

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*It is not our intention to overlook your birthday. If your birthday was not listed, please call the church office @ 527-5441 and let us know, so that we can update our records. Thank You!*

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It is February, the month we associate with love. The Bible says in 1 John 4:7 “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God...” So, love is what we’re going to learn about in February. It is the perfect

month to focus on treating the special people in our lives with just a little extra T.L.C., especially on February 14, Valentine’s Day. We are very good at getting so comfortable with the people we love and care about the most, that we forget to let them know what a blessing they are to us. Lets all remember to do just a little extra something for all the special people in our lives who bless us everyday! Remember, when you do things for others it feels so good it not only blesses them, but it blesses you too! I love a win-win like this, don’t you?

Our first month of 2011 was full of fun experiences. It was a great month for learning about “winter weather,” which was our theme for the first part of January. We experienced some heavy rainstorms and a few very cold, frosty mornings for which we had to really bundle up. We read great books about cold, snowy weather. The children learned that in some areas it snows so much that people can’t leave their home to go to work or school. In these areas people have to shovel snow off their walkways and driveways, and snow plows are used to clear the streets. I am so thankful it’s not that cold here!

The children had a great time playing in the snow on “Jack Frost Day” when we brought in bags of snow ice. They made snowballs, snow angels and even a very small snowman. Although there was just a small patch of it, the children had a whole lot of fun with this great sensory experience.

The children learned so much about “other cultures” the last part of January. They experienced some of the food, language, music, clothing and customs of each country, including Mexico, England, Sweden, Cambodia and Scotland. Some of the parents brought in food items so we could experience cooking and tasting some of the food from each country. Other parents brought in books, clothing, music and pictures representing their cultural backgrounds. It was very interesting, learning where each family’s ancestors were from.

We are looking forward to a fun month of February. Our themes will be “Love on Another” and “Our Pets.” Our chapel themes will be forgiveness (Eph. 4:32), love (1 John 4:7), kindness (Prov. 19:17), and believing (Matt. 21:22). What a joy it is to teach the children about God’s love. We are so thankful for the opportunity we have to reach out to all the wonderful families at Centenary Christian Preschool. We thank you for helping make that happen through your continued love, support and prayers. We wish you all a very happy Valentines’s Day!

In His Love,  
Janet Lewis

“Your Perfect Flaws”  
—B. Akina

In Madeline L’Engle’s book *A Wrinkle in Time*, three youngsters are sent on a quest by a troupe of supernatural beings. The beings give each a “talisman”—a piece of prophetic advice that would aid them in their journey. The central figure, Meg, is told only this: “I give you your faults.”

Meg responded precisely as most of us would have. She complained. “But I’m always trying to get rid of my faults!”

The reply is spoken lovingly, like a parent trying to explain something too complex and beautiful for a child to understand but knowing they deserve to be told anyway. “Yes... however, I think you’ll find they’ll come in very handy.”

The desire to reinvent ourselves is often a powerful one. Many New Year’s resolutions are made not with the desire to discover new joys, but to shuffle off elements of our physical and spiritual selves that we find unsatisfying.

Brothers and sisters, you are not an accident. You are not broken. You are the creation of a flawless artificer who knitted you together in your mother’s womb, beheld His handiwork, and declared, “it is good.”

Moses cited his verbal weaknesses as a reason not to contend with Pharaoh. Gideon was the last to be picked for his kickball team. Peter was uneducated and John the Baptist was smelly, and Elisha was bald. But God, we learn from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12, exhibits His power through our weaknesses. When He uses one of us for His divine work, our very incompetence renders all the credit to Him; if I am incapable of accomplishing anything good, but my life yields good fruit, there can be no other explanation but God.

So do not fear your flaws, my family. Recognize them, submit them to God, and trust Him to recognize good craftsmanship when He sees it. It may take a while for you to share that vision, or to see how your flaws fit into His divine stratagem, but have faith...

*“Because until the day when God shall deign to reveal the future to man, all human wisdom is summed up in these two words:*

*‘wait’ and ‘hope’.*”

—Alexandre Dumas





# DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the children's classrooms

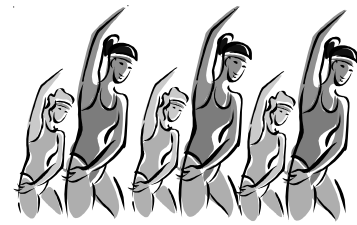
at Centenary? Here's a little glimpse of what really happens as we minister to our littlest ones. In the nursery, our attendants play with our babies, caring for them and reflecting God's love. Our preschool classroom is a place where the children still play for a bit, but they also begin to experience the routine of being in a group and following directions. The Preschoolers learn basic Bible stories and have simple crafts or games that reinforce the story. Over the next couple of months, these stories center around how much Jesus loves us and how the early church began.

Our kindergartners and first Graders begin going a bit deeper. They hear the sometimes familiar Bible story, but they also learn why we need to follow what Jesus teaches. They are learning about Jesus' miracles and parables and will soon focus on the Easter story. Children this age are eager to learn new things.

Our second and third graders are beginning to build a solid trust in God as they learn to be themselves as God guides them, even when they have doubts. They're looking throughout the Bible to find stories of others who stood firm with God and they are finding hope in these examples. These lessons are reinforced by activities and games as the children begin to make the Christian faith their own. Our fourth, fifth and sixth graders are digging into their Bibles to answer real-life questions like 'Is prayer pointless?' and 'How do I make good choices, and what if I make a mistake?' This age group seems to question everything, even their faith, and they need help finding the solid truth in the Bible. Relationships with those around them are very important for kids this age.

Amazing things are happening inside the walls of Children's Ministry and our kids are growing closer to God! We'd love to have you come and be a part of the fun.

In His Service,  
Heather Daniel



## S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

### ENERGY

As we approach the New Year, we may be needing more energy than we have to get going. We all feel better about ourselves when we have the energy to do things we enjoy. It may seem contradictory, but exercising actually gives us energy. We can be like the "Energizer" bunny that keeps on going and going!

Christ came to give us LIFE. The life that He speaks of is one full of spiritual energy. John 10:10 says, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." Christ's endless energy is available to us. I think we all wish we had more energy for others, ourselves, and especially for God's work.

**S.W.E.A.T. Aerobics  
meets in the Fellowship Center:  
Mon., Wed., & Fri. - 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
and Mon. Tues. & Thurs. - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
(High or Low Impact)  
Tues. & Thurs. - 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.  
(Non-Impact/Seniors)  
For Information Call: Sandra Hegwood 988-5655**



### Mission Team Update Opportunities to Serve

**Monday, February 21**  
Centenary will serve dinner at the Salvation Army Sign-ups for servers and greeters at the Missions table after services. Donations are needed to cover the cost of food.

### Saturday, April 2 and Saturday, June 25 LOVE Modesto

Centenary is sponsoring Health Kits for AIDS Health Workers in Africa on April 2nd. Make a donation of \$30 to support a kit. For more information, check the Missions table after services to participate in this or one of the other projects, sign up at [www.lovemodesto.com](http://www.lovemodesto.com)

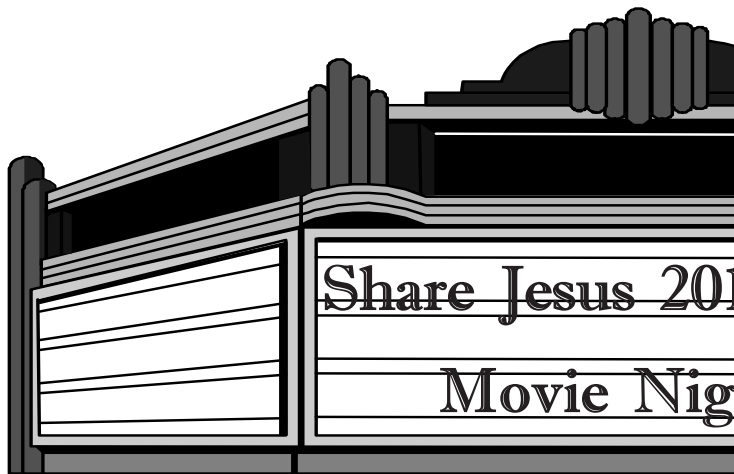
### Do you have furniture or appliances in good condition that you would like to donate?

Check the Advancing Vibrant Communities website [www.vibrantcommunities.org](http://www.vibrantcommunities.org) or call 209-544-9571. Your unneeded household goods can fill a desperate need in our community.

 Centenary United Methodist  
Church

1911 Toyon Avenue  
Modesto, CA 95350  
(209) 527-5441  
[www.centenarychurch.net](http://www.centenarychurch.net)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



February 25 - 6:00 p.m.

Free Showing of Star Wars \* Pizza \* Salad \* Popcorn

Fun Event for Adults & Children  
Invite Your Friends & Neighbors